

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014221

54

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE POLICY ON TRAVEL IN EAST BERLIN AND
THE GDR

REF: A. STATE 112231 C. BONN 14794

B. BONN A-347 D. USBERLIN 1957

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES THE REVISED TRIPARTITE TRAVEL
POLICY PAPER TRANSMITTED IN REF B AS AMENDED BY REF C.

WE ARE READY TO SEE THIS PAPER FORM THE BASIS FOR ALLIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 014221

TRAVEL POLICY CONCERNING THE GDR. WHEN FINAL APPROVAL IS

CONFIRMED BY UK AND FRANCE, WE SUGGEST STEPS BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF ALLIED ESTABLISHMENTS IN FRG AND BERLIN ARE AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS.

2. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONCERNING ISSUES RAISED IN REF B AND SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES:

A. US GUIDELINES: THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT AGREE WITH UK AND FRENCH REPS IN BONN THAT THE "TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE" LANGUAGE IN PARA 7(B) OF REF A CONTRADICTS THE AGREED TRAVEL GUIDELINES. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNCTION OF SUCH AN AGREED PAPER IS TO PROVIDE BROAD OUT-

LINES OF POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES. US GUIDELINES MAKE CLEAR THAT CHECKPOINTS OTHER THAN DREWITZ SHOULD BE USED AND THAT THE HELMSTEDT-DREWITZ AUTOBAHN IS TO BE AVOIDED. INCLUSION OF THE "TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE" CLAUSE DOES NOTHING MORE THAN PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY NEEDED IN UNUSUAL SITUATIONS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ALLIED REGULATIONS CAN BE SO INFLEXIBLE AS TO NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF INSTANCES WHERE USE OF DREWITZ CANNOT BE AVOIDED. THEY SHOULD NOT BE SO FIRMLY DRAWN THAT LEGITIMATE TRAVEL IS MADE IMPOSSIBLE.

B. USE OF HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN BY PERSONNEL NOT ASSIGNED TO BERLIN: PARAGRAPH 5 OF REF A CORRESPONDS TO SECTION 7 OF THE ALLIED TRAVEL PAPER. IT COVERS TRAVEL BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE NOT ASSIGNED TO THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. AS NOTED IN SECTION 7 OF THE TRIPARTITE PAPER, SUCH TRAVELLERS ARE NOT FORBIDDEN FROM USING THE HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN, UNLESS RIDING IN VEHICLES OR WITH PASSENGERS COVERED BY ALLIED DOCUMENTATION. WE THUS SEE NO NEED FOR THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED ON PAGE 3 OF REF B.

C. SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES: THE DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH USBER (USBERLIN A-129) THAT LITTLE WOULD BE GAINED BY USING SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR PROCESSING AT DREWITZ.

D. USE OF FULL FEE PASSPORTS: DEPARTMENT AGREES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 014221

WITH EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION THAT REFERENCE TO REGULAR FULL FEE PASSPORT IN PARA 2 OF REF A WAS NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST A MEANS OF CIRCUMVENTING TRAVEL GUIDELINES. HERE AGAIN, HOWEVER, FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. IT WOULD CLEARLY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR A MEMBER OF THE BERLIN GARRISON TO AVOID TRIPARTITE REGULATIONS IN THIS FASHION. HOWEVER, POSSESSION OF A DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORT SHOULD NOT IN ITSELF DISQUALIFY A PERSON FROM TRAVELLING

PRIVATELY ON A FULL FEE DOCUMENT. SINCE, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE PROBLEM CONCERNS US CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO GERMANY, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS EMBASSY ENSURE THAT CONSULS AND APPROPRIATE US MILITARY OFFICIALS IN BERLIN AND FRG ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE IMPLICATIONS THIS REGULATION.

E. TRAIN TRANSIT OF BERLIN: DEPARTMENT IS SYMPATHETIC TO EMBASSY MOSCOW'S DESIRE (MOSCOW 13416) TO USE TRAINS FOR TRAVEL TO WEST. ON BASIS OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY USBER (REF D), WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR TRAVELLER FROM MOSCOW OR WARSAW TO TEST GDR BORDER CROSSING PROCEDURES ON WESTBOUND INTERNATIONAL TRAINS.

ACTION REQUESTED:

3. FOR BONN: YOU SHOULD INFORM US AND FRENCH THAT WE ARE READY TO APPROVE TRIPARTITE PAPER ON THE BASIS OF ABOVE INTERPRETATIONS OF POINTS STILL IN QUESTION.

4. FOR MOSCOW AND WARSAW: PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT WHEN WISHING TO USE TRAIN FOR TRAVEL THROUGH BERLIN TO WEST. UNTIL WE HAVE HAD CHANCE TO DETERMINE PATTERN OF GDR CONTROLS, WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR TRAIN TRAVEL THROUGH BERLIN.

5. FOR USBERLIN: MAINTENANCE OF "TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE" LANGUAGE IS DESIGNED PARTICULARLY TO ENSURE THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED FROM WEST BERLIN ARE NOT BLOCKED FROM LEGITIMATE TRAVEL BY GDR REFUSAL TO ISSUE A VISA FOR A CROSSING POINT OTHER THAN DREWITZ. HOWEVER, ALLIED CONCERNS AND POTENTIAL FOR LEGAL PROBLEMS WITH GDR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 014221

SUGGEST THAT DREWITZ SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN OTHER CROSSING POINTS ARE CLEARLY NOT AVAILABLE. SISCO

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